

Council Tax Explanatory Notes

Paying Council Tax over 12 months

Council tax instalments can now be spread over 12 months instead of 10. Provided the request is received by 13th April 2018, you will take advantage of the full 12, however, requests received after this date can still be spread to March. Your request for 12 monthly instalments will automatically apply to the next financial year. If you would like to pay your council tax over 12 instalments please email your request detailing your name, address and reference number to counciltax@harborough.gov.uk or contact the Customer Services Team on **01858 828282**.

Council Tax Valuation Bands

The Valuation Office Agency (not your local Council) has allocated every property into one of eight 'Valuation Bands'. Further details are available on the Valuation Office website at www.voa.gov.uk.

Band	Range of values at 1 April 1991	Proportion of Band D tax payable
A	Up to and including £40,000	6/9
B	£40,001 to £52,000	7/9
C	£52,001 to £68,000	8/9
D	£68,001 to £88,000	9/9
E	£88,001 to £120,000	11/9
F	£120,001 to £160,000	13/9
G	£160,001 to £320,000	15/9
H	More than £320,000	18/9

Council Tax Valuation Appeals

If you do not agree with the band for your home and you wish to make an appeal, please contact the Valuation Office Agency at: www.gov.uk/voa/contact Tel: **03000 501 501**

For further information regarding banding appeals see the Valuation Office website www.voa.gov.uk or go to our website www.harborough.gov.uk.

Other Appeals

If you wish to appeal against any other matter regarding your council tax, please do so in writing to the Council Tax Team. You may email the team at counciltax@harborough.gov.uk or write to us. Our address details are:
Council Tax Team, PO Box 10004, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 9EJ.

You should continue to pay your original Council Tax Demand Notice whilst your appeal is outstanding. In the event of an overpayment the credit will be offset against any outstanding balance and the remainder refunded to you.

Discounts

Council tax assumes there are at least 2 adults living in the property. If you live on your own you are entitled to a 25% discount. If the property is a second home or is a house that is unoccupied but furnished, there is no reduction in the charge. If an adult within the household falls into one of the following categories then a discount may apply:

- Full time students, student nurses, apprentices, youth training trainees and foreign language assistants
- 18/19 year olds who are at or have just left school or college
- Patients resident in hospital or being looked after in care homes
- Severely mentally impaired people
- People in hostels or night shelters
- Low paid care workers usually employed by charities
- People caring for a person with a disability who is NOT a partner or child under 18 years old
- Members of religious communities such as monks or nuns
- People in detention (except for non-payment of council tax or a fine)
- Members of visiting forces, certain international and defence organisations

Temporary absences owing to holiday or work will not normally result in discount entitlement.

Properties that are unoccupied and furnished - are not entitled to any discount entitlement.

Annexe Discount - Annexes are entitled to a 50% discount if they are occupied by a relative of the person liable to pay council tax on the main home or if it is unoccupied the annexe must be being used as part of the main home. Please contact us for more details. If you wish to apply we will send you an application form.

Properties that are in need of, or undergoing major repair work or structural alteration - are not entitled to any discount from council tax.

Properties that are unoccupied and unfurnished - are entitled to a **one month** discount of 100%.

Long Term Empty Properties - Properties empty and unfurnished for more than 2 years will be subject to an additional premium of 50%.

Exemptions

Some properties may be exempt from council tax and the following is a broad description.

Class	Unoccupied Properties	Entitlement
B	Owned by a charity	Up to 6 months
D	Left empty by someone who has gone to prison	
E	Previously occupied by a person in permanent residential care	
F	Waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted	Up to 6 months after probate is granted
G	Empty because occupation is forbidden by law	
H	Waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion	
I	Left empty by someone who has moved to receive personal care by reason of old age, disablement or illness	
J	Left empty by someone who has moved to provide personal care to another person	
K	Owned by a student and last occupied by a student	
L	Subject to a Repossession Order	
Q	The responsibility of a bankrupt's trustee	
R	A site for a caravan, mobile home or mooring	
T	Granny annexes or similar type of property	

Class	Occupied properties
M/N	All the residents are students
O	Used for UK armed forces accommodation
P	At least one liable person is a member of a visiting force
S	All residents are less than 18 years old
U	All residents are severely mentally impaired
V	At least one liable person is a foreign diplomat
W	It is annexed to a family home occupied by that family's elderly or disabled relatives

If you think you may be entitled to a discount or may be exempt, please contact Customer Services on **01858 828282**. **If you receive a discount/exemption then you must tell the Council Tax Team within 21 days of any change of circumstances which affects your entitlement. Failure to do so may lead to a penalty charge.** If the property remains unoccupied and unfurnished after any exemption expires then it will attract a 100% Council Tax charge.

People with Disabilities

A property band reduction in the charge may be applicable if you, or someone who lives with you, is disabled and use a wheelchair within the property, or, requires a room to meet their needs or requires an extra bathroom/kitchen. Please contact the Council Tax Team if you wish to apply.

Council Tax Support Scheme

All changes in circumstance which may affect the amount of your Council Tax Support must be reported directly to the Council's Benefit Assessment Team immediately. Failure to do this may be considered an act of Fraud. If you suspect that someone is claiming Council Tax Support that they are not entitled to, you can report this anonymously to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline on 0800 854 440.

Discretionary Discounts (Section 13A)

In exceptional circumstances only, the council can award a discretionary discount which could reduce your council tax charge by up to 100%. Please contact the local authority for more information.